

## The Basics

- **Full Name & Rank:** William Barry Kunkle - Vice Chairman
- **Original Home District:** Northwest Allen County Fire District
- **Years of Service:** 50+ Years in Fire/EMS

## Professional Biography

- **Background:** Barry is a lifelong resident of Fort Wayne whose dedication to Fire and EMS spans more than five decades. Beginning his service in 1975, Barry has held numerous frontline, leadership, and officer positions throughout his career, including serving as President of the Allen County Fire Chiefs Association. In the healthcare sector, he held senior administrative leadership roles with Lutheran Health Network, served as Chief Executive Officer for multiple physician practices, and was the Director of Operations for both Fort Wayne EMS and Mercy Ambulance Service/Three Rivers Ambulance Authority (TRAA), where he helped advance regional emergency medical services. Beyond public safety and healthcare, Barry has served as Chief Operating Officer of a manufacturing and fabrication company, bringing extensive experience in business operations, personnel management, and budgeting. He has also spent over 8 years on the Saint Joseph Township Advisory Board and regularly volunteers his leadership on numerous boards, committees, and church organizations. Family is central to Barry's life; he was married to his wife, Debra, for over 39 years before her passing, raises three children, and is a proud grandfather to seven grandchildren. He also enjoys motorsports and following sports.
- **Education & Certifications:**
  - Master of Business Administration (MBA), Healthcare Specialization – Indiana Wesleyan University
  - Multiple Associate, Bachelor's, and Graduate-Level Degrees from Accredited Colleges and Universities
  - Paramedic (First Class)
  - Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD)
  - Firefighter & Master Firefighter
  - Fire Instructor II/III
  - Hazardous Materials Operations Technician
  - PADI Rescue Diver
  - Advanced Leadership, Healthcare Administration, and Executive Management Training

## **What drew you to the fire service?**

Barry's entire professional life has been built around public safety, regional healthcare networks, and community governance, driving a multi-decade passion for clinical excellence, fiscal responsibility, and structured emergency service leadership.

## **The Duties with the Unified District**

- **Primary Area of Responsibility:** Serving as the Vice Chairman of the Northwest Allen County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees, focusing on governance, executive oversight, and structural development.
- **Your Vision:** I envision the Allen County Fire District becoming an exceptional, all-hazards emergency service organization that consistently delivers the highest level of Fire and EMS service to our communities. By building a strong foundation today, we can continue moving forward with purpose, innovation, and excellence—without taking steps backward. Our focus must remain on providing outstanding service to the public, ensuring the safety and well-being of our firefighters and EMS professionals, and being responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us.
- **Community Impact:** Together, we have the opportunity to create a model organization that sets the standard for exceptional emergency services across the region for generations to come.